Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-67. (cancelled)
- 68. (New) An RNA for interference or inhibition of expression of a target gene, comprising double stranded RNA of about 11 to about 30 nucleotides in length and a 3' or 5' overhang having a length of 0-nucleotide on each strand, wherein the sequence of the double stranded RNA is substantially identical to a portion of a mRNA or transcript of the target gene.
- 69. (New) The RNA of claim 68, wherein the double stranded RNA contains about 19 to about 25 nucleotides.
- 70. (New) The RNA of claim 69, wherein the double-stranded RNA contains 20 nucleotides.
- 71. (New) The RNA of claim 69, wherein the double-stranded RNA contains 21 nucleotides.
- 72. (New) The RNA of claim 69, wherein the double-stranded RNA contains 22 nucleotides.
- 73. (New) The RNA of any one of claims 68 through 72, further comprising at least one modified ribonucleotide.

Preliminary Amendment date: February 13, 2004

Docket: AM100013 C2

- 74. (New) The RNA of claim 73, wherein the modified ribonucleotide is in the sense strand of the double-stranded RNA.
- 75. (New) The RNA of claim 1, wherein the sequence of the double-stranded RNA is no more than 30% different from the portion of the mRNA or transcript of the target gene.
- 76. (New) The RNA of claim 1, wherein the target gene is an endogenous gene in a cell.
- 77. (New) The RNA of claim 76, wherein the cell is in vivo in an organism.
- 78. (New) The RNA of claim 75, wherein the organism is a vertebrate animal.
- 79. (New) The RNA of claim 76, wherein the vertebrate animal is a mammal.
- 80. (New) The RNA of claim 77, wherein the mammal is a human.
- 81. (New) A method of interfering with or inhibiting expression of a target gene in a cell, the method comprising exposing the cell to an effective amount of the RNA of any one of claims 68 through 78.
- 82. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the cell is an animal cell.
- 83. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the animal cell is a mammalian cell.

Preliminary Amendment date: February 13, 2004

- 84. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.
- 85. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the animal cell is in vivo.
- 86. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the human cell is in vivo.
- 87. (New) A method of validating a gene as a potential drug target for a disease or condition, comprising: assaying a plurality of dsRNAs, each having a sequence substantially identical to a portion of a mRNA or transcript of the gene, for the ability to generate a desired phenotype in a cell, wherein the phenotype is a phenotype related to the disease or condition; and selecting at least one dsRNA that generates the desired phenotype.
- 88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the gene is a cancer-associated gene and the desired phenotype of the cell comprises an anti-cancer phenotype.